

Docket No.: 50212-305



Imate

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
	:	
Motonori NAKAMURA, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 3413
	:	
Serial No.: 09/977,348	:	Group Art Unit: 1731
	:	
Filed: October 16, 2001	:	Examiner: J. Hoffmann
	:	
For: OPTICAL FIBER DEVICE AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME	:	

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Restriction Requirement
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated March 24, 2004, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, requiring election of either:

Group I. Claims 1 through 10 directed to a fiber splice; or

Group II. Claims 11 through 18 directed to a method.

In response, Applicants elect to prosecute fiber splice claims 1 through 10 (Group I).

Favorable consideration of claims 1 through 10 (Group I) is solicited.

Applicants also solicit a rejoinder of non-elected method claims 11 through 18, upon the determination of an allowable article claim, pursuant to the provisions of MPEP § 821.04.

09/977,348

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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